

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T STATE 193265

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR PARKER

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3, LINE 5 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PORG MILI LE IS UNSC

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: WEIZMAN'S POSITION

REF: TEL AVIV 9718

1. OTHER THAN HIS POSITION ON THE HADDAD PROBLEM, THE
THRUST OF WEIZMAN'S PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION
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CONTAINED IN PARA 3 OF REFTTEL SHOULD NOT IN OUR VIEW
CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR THE LEBANESE. IF THERE IS A SYRIAN
COMPANY WITH A LEBANESE FORCE, WHICH NO OTHER REPORTING
CONFIRMS, LEBANESE SHOULD ASK IT TO RETURN IN ORDER TO
HELP DEFUSE THE SITUATION. IF THERE IS A SINGLE SYRIAN
ESCORT VEHICLE OR OFFICER WITH THE GROUP, IT WOULD
BE BEST TO SEE HIM REMOVED ALSO.

2. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST YOU CONVEY TO THE LEBANESE THE POINTS MADE BY WEIZMAN, INCLUDING THE WARNINGS IN PARA 7, HADDAD'S POSITION DESCRIBED PARA 9, AND SELECTIVELY IN CASES WHERE YOU THINK IT USEFUL.

3. EXPLAIN TO THE LEBANESE THAT WE COMPLETELY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE LEBANESE FEELING THAT THE HADDAD-SHIDIAC PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED, AND SOON. WE ALSO THINK, HOWEVER, GIVEN THESE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, THAT IT IS RELATIVELY MORE IMPORTANT NOW REPEAT NOW TO GET THE LEBANESE ARMY UNIT ESTABLISHED IN TIBNIN. ONCE THAT HAS HAPPENED, AND THE SYMBOLISM OF THE LEBANESE ARMY MOVE IN THE AREA HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIGHER GROUND. IT WILL HAVE SHOWN DETERMINATION AND A CAPACITY TO ACCEPT RISKS AND DANGERS. IT WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE STRONG BACKING FROM THE U.S. IT CAN BEGIN THE NECESSARY PROCESS OF WINNING THE CONFIDENCE OF THE MILITIAS AS WELL AS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE AREA. THE WELCOME ACCORDED THE CONVOY BY LEBANESE CIVILIANS, IF TRUE, WOULD BE AN ADDED ASSET.

4. AS FOR LOGISTICAL RESUPPLY, THIS ALSO IS A PROBLEM THAT EVERYONE KNEW WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT AND NO ONE HERE HAS EVER BEEN SURE OF THE SOLUTION. IT MAY TURN OUT THAT THE LAF UNIT WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON UNIFIL, OR
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PERHAPS LAF HELICOPTERS.

5. FOR CONSUL GENERAL NEWLIN: WHILE COORDINATING YOUR APPROACH WITH AMBASSADOR LEWIS, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD GIVE TO UN VIRTUALLY ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL, EXCEPT ALLEGED COMMENTS OF VISITING NORWEGIAN CHIEF OF STAFF.

6. FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS: THE MOST USEFUL SINGLE BIT OF INFORMATION WE NEED IS WHETHER THE ISRAELIS WOULD ACQUIESCE IN THE DEPARTURE OF HADDAD AND SHIDIAC FROM THE MILITIA BUFFER ZONE IF THE LEBANESE OFFERED A FACE-SAVING DEAL WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TWO MEN. IF THE ISRAELIS DID ACQUIESCE, WHAT WOULD BE THEIR POSITION AS TO AN EARLY DEPARTURE? WOULD THEY WANT THE TWO MEN TO STAY ON? FOR HOW LONG? DO THE ISRAELIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WANT THE TWO MEN TO REFUSE ANY LEBANESE DEAL AND STAY ON IN THE BUFFER ZONE INDEFINITELY?

7. WE ARE AUTHORIZING USUN TO BRIEF URQUHART ON BASIC CONTENTS OF THIS INSTRUCTION AS WELL AS REFTEL.

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